

10/29/71

Dear Phil,

The story in your Wierd-Herald on the R&K case is the usual over-simplification. It accurately reports an inaccuracy with which I do not bore you, partly because yesterday was one of 22 hours + and two days ago there was one an hour earlier, so I'm tired and using past of this pm. to catch up on mail. I'm repaging the first two parts of a just-about-completed three-part work I think has little prospect and is perhaps one of the hottest in our history.

The enclosure was sent me by a friend. Perhaps it will interest you.

My interest in Mentoff is simple. I know he was a friend of yours or Shaws. In his sine-underground, own-kind-of Establishment sheet he has been inveighing against the New York Times, de regaur for that set, and he has refused to pay any attention to what is perhaps its most serious literary sin in some years, the onconity practised upon me via a violent partisan, John Kaplan. Once it would have been open-and-shut libel.

I have a general familiarity with offset. If you have switched to it, you might want to consider switching from hot type to one of the machines today available. IBM makes a series. And special effects are standard items of supply to which any commercial artist today can refer you.

I hear there are printers in the SW, Arizona in particular, I think, whose work is by far the least costly. I don't recall anything new on the Formasa setup, but it was once the world's cheapest, and they are used to American typesetting.

Weird as it seems, publishers often do not serve self-interest. They make many decisions in the comforting illusion they will work when they can't. I don't really think mine was reached, partly because it wasn't necessary. His crookedness is a new high with me.

I think in the near future I'll be in N.O. again. This time I'm not particularly looking forward to it. It is something I must do at a time when I'd much prefer to be doing other things.

There isn't anybody down there I really want to see anymore, either. The one free spirit I knew is abroad, soaring the seas with his family in a 32-footer. And he is not returning to N.O.

Best to you both.